

cumstances with other People, and their mental enjoyment of those Circumstances (no inconsiderable part of happiness) will be infinitely greater. Thus, my dear Nelly, I have preached you a Sermon. I did it accidentally and unpremeditatedly, for it is a long time since I have written to you in such a stile, as I thought it to no purpose to throw away time in Instructions that were not regarded. The word Instruction, I know, sounds harshly to a young ear, and permit me to add, a *vain* one, but I have myself (I candidly confess it) suffered so much in a thousand circumstances from the uninstructed giddiness of youth that I feel the most painful apprehensions for any young Person I regard. Happy should I have been had I continued longer under some authoritative decision, whence I could have received friendly and severe admonition. But by being too soon (what you would think a great felicity) my own Master, I lost many advantages, and suffered many Inconveniencies, which I frequently think of with regret. Be then, my dear Nelly, no longer that giddy, thoughtless, opinionative Girl you have too long been. Make your Mamma and all your Friends happy by such an alteration of your Conduct as is necessary for your own happiness. Consider, a whole life is not to be passed in frolic and dissipation, and if it is attempted, it will probably end in misery God forbid. I should wish to check that charming chearfulness of Disposition you possess, and which if kept within proper bounds would appear so amiable. May you enjoy every amusement suited to your Age, and may you always have many light and gay hours mixed with serious ones. But for God's sake, make not amusement the business of your life. Let not Time, you might so admirably improve, pass away in trifling insipidity. Let your Mind sometimes receive useful and agreeable Instruction, and your hands be employed in the pleasing task of not only serving yourself, but assisting your Mamma, your Brothers and your Sister. By such a Conduct you will be more amiable, more happy, and all who know you will respect and love you. You will lose no one satisfaction you at present possess, but have it infinitely heightened: You will lose many painful moments you must now feel and many occasions of regret you cannot be insensible to. Will it be any addition to all these motives, that you will afford me the great satisfaction, whose desire of contributing to your happiness is extremely great, and who will ever promote it, whatever your situation or whatever your conduct may be to the utmost of my power? Oh! my dear Nelly, attend to what I say to you. I have been by degrees drawn to speak more affectingly on this subject than I had any expectations of when I begun. And